

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention is directed to the structure of an isolated protein or polypeptide which elicits a hypersensitive response in plants as well as an isolated  
5 nucleic acid molecule which encodes the hypersensitive response eliciting protein or polypeptide. This protein or polypeptide has an acid portion linked to an alpha helix or a pair of spaced apart domains comprising an acidic portion linked to an alpha-helix. This isolated protein or polypeptide and the isolated nucleic acid molecule can  
10 used to impart disease resistance to plants, to enhance plant growth, to control insects, and/or to impart stress resistance to plants. This can be achieved by applying the hypersensitive response elicitor protein or polypeptide in a non-infectious form to plants or plant seeds under conditions effective to impart disease resistance, to  
enhance plant growth, to control insects, and/or to impart stress resistance to plants or plants grown from the plant seeds. Alternatively, transgenic plants or plant seeds  
15 transformed with a nucleic acid molecule encoding a hypersensitive response elicitor protein or polypeptide can be provided and the transgenic plants or plants resulting from the transgenic plant seeds are grown under conditions effective to impart disease resistance, to enhance plant growth, to control insects, and/or to impart stress resistance to plants or plants grown from the plant seeds.

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